

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-54 are pending herein. The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependent claims, without prejudice, and to place the claims in proper U.S. claim formatting style. The specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to the priority applications and to add an Abstract of the Disclosure.

Prompt and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: Clara Schutte  
Reg. No. 51,094  
for Paul T. Bowen  
Reg. No. 38,009

PTB:jsm  
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

Attachment:  
Abstract